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Letter dated 8 November 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Burundi to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit to you the communiqué of the twenty-third summit of the Great Lakes Regional Peace Initiative on Burundi, held in Nairobi on 15 October 2004 (see annex).

The Congress has subsequently approved the interim Constitution, which has been in force since 1 November 2004. The President of the Republic has also appointed the provincial electoral committees, which work under the authority of the Independent Electoral Commission. The Commission has issued the following timetable for elections:

1. Constitutional referendum: 26 November 2004;
2. Local elections (colline): 9 February 2005;
3. Commune council elections: 23 February 2005;
4. National Assembly elections: 9 March 2005;
5. Senate elections: 23 March 2005;
6. Presidential election: 22 April 2005.

The Chairman of the Independent Electoral Commission has stated, however, that this timetable is provisional. The constitutional referendum will depend on such factors as the availability of resources to conduct a census and the manufacture of identification cards and voting cards. He added that the question of whether these dates would be adhered to would also depend, above all, on the general security situation in the country.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as documents of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Marc **Nteturuye**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 8 November 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Burundi to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Communiqué of the twenty-third Summit of the Great Lakes Regional Peace Initiative on Burundi

A summit of the Great Lakes Regional Peace Initiative on Burundi met in Nairobi on 15 October 2004, and reviewed the progress made in the Burundi peace process since the last Summit.

The Summit was attended by the following Heads of State and representatives of Governments:

His Excellency President Mwai Kibaki, President of the Republic of Kenya

His Excellency President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda, Chairperson of the Regional Initiative on Burundi

His Excellency President Paul Kagame of the Republic of Rwanda

His Excellency President Domitien Ndayizeye of Burundi

His Excellency President Abdullahi Yusuf Ahmed of the Transitional Federal Republic of Somalia

His Excellency Deputy President Jacob Zuma of the Republic of South Africa and Facilitator of the Burundi peace process

The United Republic of Tanzania was represented by Mr. Jakaya Kikwete, the Hon. Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia was represented by His Excellency Abdulaziz Adem, Ethiopian Ambassador to the Republic of Kenya

Also present were:

Mr. Patrick Mazimhaka, Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission

Ambassador Mamadou Bah, Special Representative of the African Union in Bujumbura

Ms. Carolyn McAskie, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General in Bujumbura

The summit reflected on the resolutions of the twenty-second Summit held on 18 August 2004, in Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania, which endorsed the Pretoria Agreement on power-sharing and further mandated President Ndayizeye to ensure the following:

- That the Independent Electoral Commission would be established by 29 August 2004.
- That within three weeks of the establishment of the Independent Electoral Commission, the Burundi National Assembly should adopt the draft constitution. On failure to do that, the President of the Republic of Burundi should send the draft constitution to the referendum or to the Implementation

Monitoring Committee to invoke Protocol II, Article 15.7, of the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement.

The twenty-third Summit welcomed the progress made by the Transitional Government, specifically the following:

- The establishment of the independent Electoral Commission comprising five members.
- The adoption of the draft post-transitional constitution.
- The announcement by President Ndayizeye of the date of the referendum on the post-transitional constitution as 20 October 2004.

The twenty-second Summit had reached an understanding that once the Independent Electoral Commission had been established and conducted its investigation on the logistics necessary for the holding of the elections, it should report to the Chairperson of the region and the Facilitator.

In view of that, the Chairperson convened an urgent meeting at which the Independent Electoral Commission presented its report to President Museveni and Deputy President Zuma, in Kampala on 12 October 2004.

Subsequent to that, a summit was convened by the Chairperson to discuss the report and proposals of the Independent Electoral Commission.

The Summit has received a report and recommendations of the Independent Electoral Commission.

Based on the reality on the ground, the Summit accepts that elections cannot take place before 1 November 2004.

The Summit further endorses the electoral calendar of the Independent Electoral Commission.

Furthermore, the Summit noted that the life of the transition institutions and administration has to be extended.

In this regard, the Summit notes that the joint sitting of the National Assembly and Senate (Congress) has passed a draft constitution which addresses this eventuality. Therefore the decision of the Summit is that the draft constitution passed by the Congress be endorsed before 25 October 2004, as an Interim constitution until the referendum, to facilitate the process of the elections in line with the calendar of the Independent Electoral Commission.

The Summit also decided that the region should assist the Transitional Government of Burundi to secure the financial resources required for the elections, by ensuring that the donors who had pledged funds met their obligations.

The twenty-third Summit acknowledged the key role played by the Republic of Kenya in working for peace in the region, and sincerely thanked His Excellency President Kibaki, the Government and people of the Republic of Kenya, for the warm hospitality extended to delegates to the Summit